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1st Marine Corps Scout Dog Platoon  
1st Military Police Battalion  
3d Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602

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RSN:jfp  
12 Nov 1966

From: 1stLt. R. S. NEUBAUER, Platoon Commander  
To: Major J. W. MCKINNEY, Commanding Officer, 26th IPSP, 1st  
Battalion, 29th Infantry  
Subj: Report of Activities

1. Since entrance into Vietnam the Marine Scout Dog Platoons have participated in the following major operations:

- a. Orange
- b. Georgia
- c. Liberty
- d. Swanee
- e. Jay
- f. Colorado
- g. Napa (I & II)
- h. Hot Springs
- i. Buck
- j. Titon
- k. El Paso

(11)

In addition to these, the platoons are constantly comitted to patrols, ambushes, county and state fairs operations, and search and destroy operations. It is impossible to estimate the total number of SDT "missions" which have been completed, however the platoons have over 120 commitments consisting of anywhere between 2 to 12 SDT's in each.

2. The results obtained from employment of the SDT's have been extremely fruitful. It has been estimated that well over 2000 Marine's lives have been saved since the insertion of the 1st Scout Dog Platoon into Vietnam. In one recent operation the 4 SDT's deployed were instrumental in the capture of 9 VC, the killing of 37 VC, and the uncovering of Strategic Intelligence Information which was concerned with the new taxation system to be used in the Da Nang area by the VC.

3. Some of the problems which we have encountered, which may be helpful for training are listed on the following page.

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a. During village sweeps, it has been a constant problem to clear the domestic animals from the area. If at all possible, I would suggest when the dogs are trained for village operations that chickens, ducks, and other farm type animals be placed in the village.

b. In training, we ran our problems with all personal ahead of the patrols considered hostile. Here in Vietnam the situation is more often than not just the opposite. There are many "civilians" in the area and the dogs, of course, alert on them as well as the VC. It is left up to the patrol leader to determine whether or not the area is supposed to contain the "civilians" type or not, and then take the appropriate action.

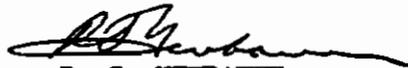
c. The major problem we have encountered lies in the simple fact that people have to be convinced that the dogs will be of positive use to them. Once a unit uses the dogs, they always come back at a later date for more. We have just recently begun to employ SDT's with the Marine Recon units. Their area of operations is primarily north of Phu Bai, and we have obtained many positive results working with them.

4. The Marine Scout Dog Platoons over here have under gone a re-organization. I am now in charge of both Platoons which consist of a T.O. of 62 dogs and 82 men. Our on hand strength is 58 dogs and 72 men. The 2nd Platoon has lost 2 dogs since the beginning of November. One was poisoned and the other was destroyed due to hip displaxia. They have had 3 dogs and 2 men wounded, however the Marine Corps no longer give animals awards.

5. We all were pleased to hear of the possibility of regaining a lost comrade, "Robbi." We have planned a warm reception upon his return.

6. The news that four Marine Platoons would be trained each year is contrary to messages we have received from Headquarters Marine Corps. If possible could I be given more information concerning the situation?

7. Both of the platoon Sgts. and I are in the process of developing a T.O. for Scout Dogs in the Marine Corps. Our basic idea is to have a "Scout Dog Company" per Marine Division, with one squad of dogs attached to each infantry battalion. We are also interested in the possibilities of having marine instructors assigned to Fort Benning, to assist in the training of these men. I would appreciate your opinions concerning this matter.

  
R. S. NEUBAUER  
1stLt. USMC

LATE NEWS:

SSGT McVEY WAS WOUNDED WHILE OPERATING WITH 3RD  
FORCE RECON A GRANADE EXPLODED JUST A BIT FROM HIS HEAD.  
HE IS UP FOR THE SILVER STAR ALONG WITH PFC WILLS, THE  
DOG HANDLER. SGT MAC IS AOK.